



The Blurb



Newsletter of The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club

63 Years of Public Service, 1949 to 2012

Volume 62 Number 6

www.phil-mont.org

June 2012

Father's day



Flag day



And don't forget ...

Field Day!

<i>The Blurb</i> is published monthly by and for the members of The PHIL-MONT MOBILE RADIO CLUB, Inc., whose purpose is to promote Amateur Radio in general, and Mobile Radio in particular. <i>Copying and quoting</i> is permitted with a credit line. We gladly exchange publications with other amateur radio clubs. Requests should be sent to the Editor. <i>Subscriptions</i> are available to non-members for \$12, addressed to the Treasurer. Editor: Rick DeVirgiliis ND3B nd3b@arrl.net 215-908-7225 Labels and mailing: KB3IV Submissions deadline: All copy must be in the hands of the Editor by the 20th of the previous month.		Directors: WU3I (12) W3MHP(12) KB3SJS(12) WA3KIO(13) N3QV(13) ND3B(13) KB3IV(A)	Contact Phil-Mont: P.O. Box 88 Abington, PA 19001 http://www.phil-mont.org Website: Eric N3QV & Andrew KC2PMW For club information: Contact any club officer, or the repeaters listed below. Address or club directory changes and articles for the membership e-mail list should be sent to: KB3IV
		Sunday Morning Net Schedules • 2 Meter/ 70cm Net..... at 0930L on W3QV repeater • 10-on-10 Net at 1000L 28.393 MHz USB (±QRM) • 75 meter Net at 1020L 3.993 MHz LSB • ARES at 2100L on the W3QV repeater	
Committees Audit: NS3K Blurb folding: KB3IV & N3GLU Directory: KB3IV	DX: N3MT Emerg.Coar: K3HWE Field Day: KE3QB Internet: N3QV & KC2PMW Membership: N3XKE	Net Control: KB3IV Publicity: W3RM Program: Club VP Public Service: KE3QB Refreshments: W3AOK Repeater: W3AOK	Scholarship: W3RM Skywarn: WX3PHI Sunshine: N3GLU VE Program: NS3K Welcome: N3UBY Youth: KC2PMW

All visitors are welcome!

The club meets at 7:30 PM on the *second* non-holiday Wednesday each month except July and August at **Roxborough Memorial Hospital**, 5800 Ridge Avenue, Philadelphia, PA 19128
Maps and directions are available at www.phil-mont.org.

License Examinations are held on the fourth **non-holiday Thursday** each month at **Community Ambulance Association, 1414 E. Butler Pike, Ambler PA 19002**
Registration begins at 7:00 P.M. Applicants should contact Jim McCloskey NS3K at 215-275-2979 or jmccloskey@msn.com for the latest information.

Club Stations W3QV/R: The Jim Spencer Memorial Repeater System
Ridge & Port Royal Avenues, Philadelphia, PA **Trustee: W3RM**
147.03 MHz + PL 91.5 Hz 444.80 MHz + PL 186.2 Hz
Reach us on EchoLink through W3QV-R
W3AA Trustee: WU3I
W3EM: Field Day/special event station Trustee: N3QV

The Officers

Pres: KB2ERL Bob Nicotera bnic1903@msn.com
Vice Pres: W3STW Al Tribble wstw@juno.com
Sec: KB3MIV Jen Miller jencaz29@gmail.com
Treas: W3RM Richard A. Moll roger.mike@verizon.net
Asst. Treas: N3MT Michael P. Taraborrelli michaelmt_1999@yahoo.com

The Prez Sez ...



73, Bob KB2ERL

***Phil-Mont
Birthdays & Tidbytes***

June Birthdays

03 Jennifer Miller – KB3MIV
04 Dick Moll - W3RM
Sue Sadwin - N2CYA
05 John Direnzo Jr. – KB3SJV

10 Thomas Maresca (OM K3YPH)
15 Caitlin Brady – W3CJB
John Coupe - WA3BXH

23 Olga Guerra (XYL KB1QW)

30 Mike Lenczynski - KA3EIP
Fred Rice - WA3KIO

MEMBERSHIP STATS

At press time P.M.R.C. had:

84 FULL PAID MEMBERS

8 FAMILY MEMBERS

3 YOUTH MEMBER

1 HONORARY MEMBER

1 Pending member



***The VE evening session is on Thursday the
28th this month.***

As always, many thanks to our VE team!

From the Secretary

PMRC BoD Meeting Minutes, May 2, 2012

Bob, KB2ERL opened the meeting at 2008.

10 members attended, Bob, KB2ERL; Al, W3STW; Fred, WA3KIO; Steve, WU3I; Frank, W3MHP; Eric, N3QV; Ed, KB3IV; Rick, ND3B; John, KB3SJS; and Jen, KB3MIV.

W3STW began a conversation on control operators on the repeaters. WU3I reviewed the offsite transceivers are squared away and thanked Doug, WA3DSP. KB3IV, spoke about membership and brought up that Ray Cassel, K3RIZ, has been published in the previous Blurb to be a member. WU3I made a motion to accept K3RIZ as a new member, W3STW seconded the motion and all agreed. Welcome Ray as a new member when you see him! W3STW discussed upcoming programs for the year. Further old business brought up was the scholarship fund winners will be announced by field day this year. KB3MIV reviewed the list of band captains for field day. KB2ERL talked about the photo from last year at field day. New business discussed were programs for the fall; arranging for a painting crew for the repeater shack; and W3MHP had an idea to begin a Yahoo group for the club. W3STW made a motion to adjourn the meeting, WU3I seconded, and the meeting ended at 2056. The next board meeting will be September this year.

de Jen, KB3MIV

General Meeting Minutes, May 9, 2012

VP Al opened the meeting at 2007 hrs saying president Bob, KB2ERL was enroute and asked for committee reports. Treasurer Dick, W3RM reports the club's finances are sound and FAR is processing scholarship applications including some from PMRC members.

Ed, KB3IV thanked all net control operators for their service in this vital club activity and invited all members to join the rotation. He invited Jack K3CHR to get on the roster.

Carmen KE3QB, asked Andrew KC2PMW to speak about FD plans. Site A and B will be used again this year. FD paraphernalia should be ordered direct

from ARRL, as the club won't be making any this year. All bands have captains and Chris Brady will be working digital mode as frequency availability allows. WU3I will once again do his stellar job of feeding attendees. No special foods will be available so those with special dietary concerns should plan accordingly. Set up will begin on Friday afternoon and the gate will be locked at dusk. The club will have a key however. FD details will be discussed again at the June meeting.

Andrew also reports the website is in good shape and is open to ideas for changes and additions. Members should contact him with suggestions.

Drexel radio club is making a comeback with the help of Chris Brady N3CB and daughter Caitlin, W3CJB.

Jim NS3K informs us that the next Saturday session will be on June 16th and encourages any VE examiners to attend. Also the Philly Digital club will be offering classes after the Saturday sessions - if interested contact him so he can take a head count before hand.

Bill, W3AOK reports the repeater is in good working order and that the shack needs a paint job. Plans to be announced.

Al has programs for the remainder of the year but asks members for their ideas also. They could replace or be incorporated into the existing schedule.

Guest Susan Garrison, KB3YQM was introduced, she attended last month and got her Tech ticket in the interim. She is considering PMRC membership.

Don Gordon is home from the hospital and would be glad to hear from old friends and club members while he recuperates.

Club business being concluded President Bob gave an informative talk about the new - to some of us - All-Star system which merges RF and internet.

de Rick, ND3B

Bob Thomas, W3NE

*Professor Bob***ANTENNA RESTRICTIONS****Hope from FCC Docket 12-91**

Bob Thomas, W3NE

There recently has been considerable publicity from ARRL Headquarters and K3RF, our newly-elected Section Communications Manager (SCM) concerning FCC Public Notice DA 12-523. The Notice requested comments and recommendations related to amateur emergency communications and impediments to installation of effective antennas, e.g., community and landlord limitations on outside antennas. These vital concerns to hams are buried deep within in Public Law 112-96, the *Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012*, demonstrating once again the superior intellect of our U.S. Congress in devising ways to obscure the obvious.

Proceeding 12-91 is presented in the form of two questions for comment: 1) "The importance of emergency Amateur Radio Service communications," and 2) "Impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications." I chose to comment only on Question 2 because I am not involved at present with emergency communications. Furthermore, the impediments highlighted by Question 2 have recently caused me considerable personal anguish. The comment period on the Docket ended May 15th, so if you have not replied to the Proceeding it's too late now, but that doesn't diminish the relevance of what follows.

First, here is my story. I live in a third-floor apartment in a retirement community. I have attempted to operate W3NE on HF for several years with make-do antennas of drastically limited capabilities erected entirely on my balcony or, by necessity, in close proximity to a building wall. Performance of my station with compromised antennas has been thoroughly unsatisfactory; transmission suffers from inherent inefficiency of a short and poorly-sited antenna, and reception is limited to very strong signals, i.e., greater than S9, due to presence of severe electrical noise and RF interference emanating from my building and other nearby sources.

A simple solution suggested by W3HTW to avoid limitations imposed by compromise antennas would be to erect a single, virtually invisible wire from my balcony to a stout tree located 170 feet distant. Because the wire would be approximately at right angles to the building it would discriminate against local noise sources. In addition, the length of the end-fed wire (Zepp) would enable operation on all HF bands from 160 through 10 meters with a remote tuner on the balcony. For those who might not be familiar with the term "Zepp," it is the old-time ham designation for an end-fed wire antenna, originally one that trailed behind German Zeppelins. I recently submitted a proposal to the management of my retirement community for permission to erect such an antenna (it is their tree!). The proposal was accompanied with documentation covering all aspects of health, safety, aesthetics, and technical performance, and a copy of FCC PRB-1 that urges local authorities to, "...accommodate reasonably amateur communications." My request to erect such an innocuous antenna wire was denied because, "There is a corporate rule prohibiting any extension from an apartment to another structure."

The average age of amateurs is currently estimated at 60 years, and that age is rising along with the general population, so in the future increasing numbers of hams can be expected to "downsize" from home ownership to a secure, worry-free lifestyle offered by continuing care retirement communities. Amateurs that opt for that sort of life in their "Golden Years" should not be penalized

with trivial rules that detract from pursuit of their hobby.

Plan B to cope with my personal situation has been to install an expensive Pixel Technologies magnetic loop antenna, which was erected for me by Doug, WA3DSP. Because the loop is directional it has to be rotated and Steve, W3UI came up with a good used TR-44 at a verrry reasonable price. The loop is for receive-only, however, so I am now thinking about what kind of loaded dipole I can put up that will perform better than mediocre attempts of the past. In any case, the new Mickey Mouse antennas will not perform as well as the lamented Zepp, but it seems there will be no recourse for something better until there are new federal regulations with more force than the toothless “declaratory” PRB-1. That’s where Proceeding 12-91 comes in.

In view of the disappointing outcome of my modest request to install a simple wire antenna, I feel rather passionately about supporting new federal legislation that would counteract flimsy, capricious objections to reasonable antennas by communities that now impose draconian restrictions against any antennas and even flag poles! That brings us back to Docket 12-91 and the questions it poses regarding impediments to the Amateur Radio service. Here was an opportunity to officially object to limitations inflicted by communities and landlords with imposition of explicit *federal* laws that override all local regulations. The submission I made included personal background, a description of corporate management restrictions to the proposed Zepp, and advocacy of new federal regulations to prevent future incursions against amateur radio operating privileges. It was complete on one page and filed over the internet with the FCC’s Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS).

There is no telling what will come of all this; the Docket only sought comments and suggestions for study with no indication that they will influence rule making. But there is hope something might be done – after all, Congress revised the Telecommunications Act of 1996 to supersede local restrictions on placement of satellite dish antennas.¹ What ultimately happens to the measly 134 replies to Docket 12-91 is anybody’s guess. We are still dealing with Washington, so community, real estate

and industry lobbyists are sure to exert their considerable influence if and when any lawmaking is proposed. It was a good learning experience though, and despite my snide remarks about the District of Columbia, FCC records are accessible and transparent, even back to 1992.

Keep a watch for future announcements from the ARRL on impending FCC actions that affect amateurs, and don’t be bashful about posting your views on the ECFS.

REFERENCES

¹ <http://www.fcc.gov/guides/over-air-reception-devices-rule>

ECFS Home Page: <http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/>
Comments on Docket 12-91:
<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/proceeding/view?name=12-91>
ECFS User’s Manual:
<http://apps.fcc.gov/ecfs/userManual/ecfsmanual.jsp>

Have you heard about D-Star?

Philadelphia Digital Radio Assn meets the first non-holiday Monday of each month at the Community Ambulance Assn 1440 East Butler Pike Ambler, Pa. 19002 at 7:00 pm.

The club has two D-star repeaters on the following frequencies: On two meters - 146.61 (-) and on 70 cm 445.18125 (-)

I run a weekly club D-star net on Mondays at 8:00 pm local time on the club 2 meter frequency.

de Jim, NS3K

Check out this rope for your antenna project –

3/32" Braided Olive Drab - Dacron / Polyester cord

This is a high quality braided polyester cord with a breaking strength of 210 pounds. Proudly Made in the U.S.A.!

This is a gorgeous *solid braid* perfect for dipole antennas. Very low stretch and strong. Will withstand the weather & sun for 7 to 10 years.

***PRICE \$10.00 PER 100 FEET
SOLD IN 100 FOOT LOTS
CONTACT STEVE WU3I AT
WU3I@ARRL.NET***

Wanted

A few select positions exist for Net control station operators to round out the schedule of regulars. (Actually they all bailed out and are summering on the Riviera.)

Great pay, good benefits, short hours. Includes a multimillion dollar golden parachute and use of the club's private jet.

Contact Ed, KB3IV to sign up for this spectacular opportunity!

FOR SALE - GREAT DEAL

Each HT below has had light use and comes with all manuals, accessories and original packaging.

-Yaesu VX-7R Black 50/144/440 MHz dual band 5 Watt -- If purchased new at HRO \$369 - on sale for **was \$200**
Now \$175

-Kenwood TH-F6A dual band 144/220/440 MHz 5 watt -- If purchased new at HRO \$324 on sale for **was \$175 now \$150**

Again, all are in great condition. Feel free to contact me at your convenience.

Bob Rose N3TWO
email: N3TWO@arrl.net

June at Phil-Mont

3rd Sun KC2PMW NCS
6th Wed D Day 1944
10th Sun W3STW NCS
13th General meeting
14th Thur Flag Day
17th Sun Father's day KB3IV NCS
23rd Field Day
24th Sun KA3IRJ NCS
28th Thur VE session

***Don't forget the ARES net on Sunday nights and
the Digital net on Tuesday nights.***

First Class Mail

The Phil-Mont Mobile Radio Club, Inc
1700 Street Rd. Apt. H3, Warrington PA, 18976

The Blurb